CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

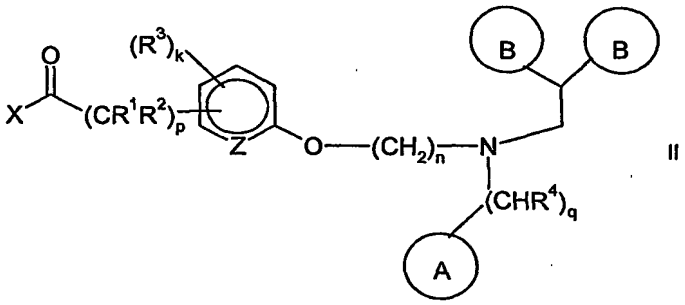
1. A method of treating or preventing cardiovascular pathology; comprising, administering a therapeutically effective amount of LXR agonist, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate, or physiologically functional derivative thereof.

2. The method of claim 1 in which cardiovascular pathology is selected from the group consisting of cardiac hypertrophy, coronary heart disease, arrhythmia, restricted coronary blood flow, arteriosclerosis, heart failure, congestive heart failure (CHF), and myocardial infarction.

3. A pharmaceutical composition for treating or preventing cardiovascular pathology comprising a therapeutically effective amount of LXR agonist, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate, or physiologically functional derivative thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

4. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 3 in which cardiovascular pathology is selected from the group consisting of cardiac hypertrophy, coronary heart disease, arrhythmia, restricted coronary blood flow, arteriosclerosis, heart failure, congestive heart failure (CHF), and myocardial infarction.

5. The LXR agonist of any one of claims 1 to 4 that is a compound of formula (II):



II

wherein:

X is OH or NH_2;

p is 0-6;

each R^1 and R^2 are the same or different and are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, C_{1-8}alkyl, C_{1-8}alkoxy and C_{1-8}thioalkyl;

Z is CH or N;

when Z is CH, k is 0-4;

when Z is N, k is 0-3;

each R^3 is the same or different and is independently selected from the group consisting of halo, –OH, C_{1-8}alkyl, C_{2-8}alkenyl, C_{1-8}alkoxy, C_{2-8}alkenyloxy, $-S(O)_aR^6$, $-NR^7R^8$, $-COR^6$, $COOR^6$, $R^{10}COOR^6$, $OR^{10}COOR^6$, $CONR^7R^8$, $-OC(O)R^9$, $-R^{10}NR^7R^8$, $-OR^{10}NR^7R^8$, 5-6 membered heterocycle, nitro, and cyano;

a is 0, 1 or 2;

R^6 is selected from the group consisting of H, C_{1-8}alkyl, C_{1-8}alkoxy and C_{2-8}alkenyl;

each R^7 and R^8 are the same or different and are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, C_{1-8}alkyl, C_{2-8}alkenyl, C_{3-8}alkynyl;

R^9 is selected from the group consisting of H, C_{1-8}alkyl and $-NR^7R^8$;

R^{10} is C_{1-8}alkyl;

n is 2-8;

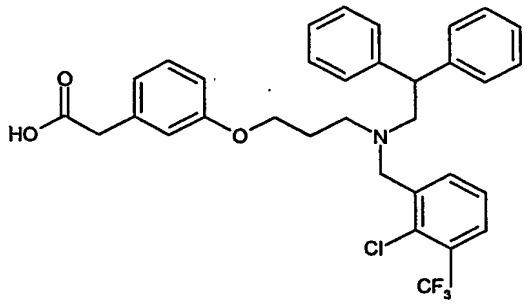
q is 0 or 1;

R^4 is selected from the group consisting of H, C_{1-8}alkyl, C_{1-8}alkenyl, and alkenyloxy;

Ring A is selected from the group consisting of C_{3-8}cycloalkyl, aryl, 4-8 membered heterocycle, and 5-6 membered heteroaryl;

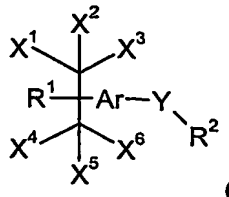
each ring B is the same or different and is independently selected from the group consisting of C_{3-8}cycloalkyl and aryl.

6. The LXR agonist of claim 5 that is the compound of formula (IIa)



(IIa)

7. The LXR agonist of any one of claims 1 to 4 that is a compound of formula (I):



(I)

wherein:

Ar represents an aryl group;R^1 is –OH, -O-(C_1-C_7)alkyl, -OC(O)-(C_1-C_7)alkyl, -O-(C_1-C_7)heteroalkyl, -OC(O)- (C_1-C_7)heteroalkyl, -CO_2H, -NH_2, -NH(C_1-C_7)alkyl, -N((C_1-C_7)alkyl)$_2$ or –NH-S(O)$_2$-(C_1-C_5)alkyl;

R^2 is (C_1-C_7)alkyl, (C_1-C_7)heteroalkyl, aryl and aryl(C_1-C_7)alkyl;

X^1, X^2, X^3, X^4, X^5 and X^6 are each independently H, (C_1-C_5)alkyl, (C_1-C_5)hetroalkyl, F or Cl, with the proviso that no more than three of X^1 through X^6 are H, (C_1-C_5)alkyl or (C_1-C_5)heteroalkyl; and

Y is –N(R^{12})S(O)$_m$-, -N(R^{12})S(O)$_m$N(R^{13})-, -N(R^{12})C(O)-, –N(R^{12})C(O)N(R^{13})-, -N(R^{12})C(S)- or -N(R^{12})C(O)O-, wherein R12 and R13 are each independently hydrogen, (C_1-C_7)aryl, (C_1-C_7)heteroalkyl, aryl and aryl(C_1-C_7)alkyl, and optionally when Y is –N(R^{12})S(O)$_m$- or -N(R^{12})S(O)$_m$N(R^{13})-, R^{12} forms a five, six or seven-membered ring fused to Ar or to R^2 through covalent attachment to Ar or R^2, respectively. In the above Y groups, the subscript m is an integer of from 1 to 2;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof

8. The LXR agonist of claim 7 that is the compound formula (Ia):